

**Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application**

As a below named inventor, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenship are as stated below next to our name,

We believe we are original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought, on the invention entitled "INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AND METHOD," the specification of which is filed herewith.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

No claim for foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 is made and no corresponding foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the present application have been filed.

We hereby appoint the registered practitioner(s) associated with **Customer Number 6449** to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Direct all correspondence to **Customer Number 6449**.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Inventor's Signature  Date 4/25/01

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